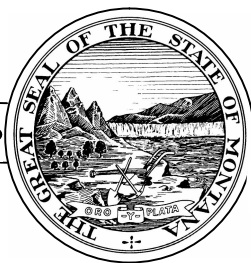


OFFICE OF STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

RANDI HOOD
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF MONTANA

44 WEST PARK STREET
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701

May 18, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to inform you that effective July 1, 2006 the Office of the State Public Defender (Office) will be responsible for providing and funding public defender services for district and limited courts within the State of Montana. The Office will be paying for any service approved by the Office that occurs on or after July 1, 2006.

You will need to prepare separate invoices for any services or costs incurred prior to July 1, and submit those as you have in the past. We will only pay for fees and costs incurred July 1st and after.

Approval will be a prerequisite for payments on all contracted services. If you are presently working on a case which is anticipated to be ongoing after July 1, 2006, or if you have any questions regarding attorney, private investigation, or evaluation services please contact Larry Murphy (Office Contract Manager) at 406-496-6088 or <mailto:lamurphy@mt.gov> to discuss the service that you are providing. If you wish to apply to enter into a public defender contract with the Office you must complete the Attorney's Summary of Education and Experience which can be found on our website at www.publicdefender.mt.gov. The summary must be forwarded to our office by June 15, 2006.

Please prepare your invoices in accordance with the Office Billing Procedures. These procedures, along with billing forms and instructions, will be posted by June 15 on our Office website, or you can call 406-496-6080 to have a paper copy of these procedures and forms mailed to you. You will need to submit all invoices directly to your regional office for approval of payment. You will be able to identify your applicable region, along with the correct mailing address and your regional contact at this same site. When your invoice has been approved, it will be forwarded to the central office in Butte for prompt payment. If you have any questions about these procedures or how to fill out any billing form please call Sandra Law (Office Financial Manager) at 406-496-6089.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi M. Hood".

Randi Hood
Chief Public Defender